

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice or disclaimer and add new claims 16-28 as follows:

1.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (New) A mold insert system for an injection mold apparatus comprising a mold cavity plate and a mold core plate each secured to mold bases, relatively movable between open and closed positions, each having opposing faces, said faces meeting to define a mold cavity between the two faces, said cavity defining the shape of a molded article, at least one of said faces defining a facial pocket therein for insertion of a mold insert, said facial pocket defining an insert passageway extending from the facial pocket through the plate and base, said mold insert secured to an insert rod, said insert rod including at least one transverse slot extending thereacross, said insert rod insertable into said passageway to a prelock position, whereat said insert is partially inserted into said facial pocket; said mold base defining a transverse passageway extending transversely to and communicating with said insert passageway; a locking member being insertable into said transverse passageway such that a portion of said locking member is positioned within the at least one slot of the insert rod, wherein the locking member is rotatable about its axis when it is inserted in the transverse passageway such that the insert rod may be urged to move between said prelock and fully inserted positions by rotation of said locking member about its axis.

17. (New) A mold insert system according to claim 1, wherein the locking member has a cam rod extending axially therefrom offset from the axis of the locking member, said offset cam rod engaging the slot of the insert rod such that rotation of said locking member about said axis causes the offset cam rod to urge the insert rod and insert between said prelock and fully inserted positions.

18. (New) A mold insert system according to claim 1, wherein said locking member is rotatable about its axis by means of a cam handle positioned on the periphery of said mold base, said handle moving from a first position where said locking member positions said insert in said prelock position to a second position whereat said locking member engages and moves said insert rod and insert to said fully inserted position.

19. (New) A mold insert system according to claim 3, wherein said cam handle may be locked in said first and second positions.

20. (New) A mold insert system according to claim 4, wherein said cam handle is locked by means of dowels insertable through the cam handle into openings adapted for accepting said dowels at the respective first and second positions.

21. (New) A mold insert system according to claim 1, wherein said insert rod is attached to said insert by means of a screw having a head positioned at a lead end of the rod and extending through said rod engaging said insert.

22. (New) A mold insert system according to claim 6, wherein said insert and insert rod are biased in the prelock position by a tension spring positioned at said lead end of the insert rod between the screw head and the rod.

23. (New) A mold insert system according to claim 1, wherein said insert rod is integrally formed to the insert.

24. (New) A mold insert system according to claim 1, wherein said locking rod includes gear members and said at least one insert rod slot forms mating portions of said gear members into which said gear members may be inserted, such that when said gear members engage said mating portions, rotation of said insert rod about its axis causes said insert rod and insert to move between the prelock and fully inserted positions.

25. (New) A mold insert system according to claim 1, whereby said locking rod includes a slanted profile portion which engages said insert rod slot, said insert rod slot being formed such that rotation of the locking rod causes the slanted profile portion to urge to insert rod between the prelock and fully inserted positions.

26. (New) A mold insert according to claim 1, wherein said locking rod includes an angled pin portion which engages said slot in the insert rod, and rotation of said locking rod causes said angled pin portion to advance and retract axially and such advancement and retracting of the angled pin urges said insert rod and insert to move between said prelock and fully inserted positions.

27. (New) A mold insert system according to claim 1, wherein said locking rod is rotated about its axis by means of a knob positioned on a peripheral end of the locking rod.

28. (New) A mold insert system according to claim 1, wherein said insert and insert rod are biased in the prelock position by means of a spring bumper positioned within the facial pocket.